



# Secretary of State

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Due to COVID-19 impacts and the Governor's orders discouraging human contact in public spaces, we received a number of questions about the nominating convention process. While phase restrictions differ from area to area, safety of organizers and voters remain of the utmost priority.

[RCW 29A.56.600-670](#) require "an assemblage of registered voters" to support a nominee for the November General Election. Adoption of Emergency [WAC 434-208-1301](#) is necessary for the nomination process during the current pandemic situation.

Under the emergency rule, a virtual convention is acceptable as a safe nominating convention for the 2020 General Election. Attendees of a virtual convention must have a hard copy of the nominating petition, and they must provide their printed name, address, and original signature. Signatures must be submitted to the Secretary of State together with the nominating petition. Scanned, faxed, copied, or emailed signatures will not be accepted on the nominating petition forms.

All notices and nominating petition requirements and deadlines remain in place. The Secretary of State has no authority to waive any statute in the Revised Code of Washington.

This emergency rule is adopted in light of the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the ability of individuals to gather for organized meetings. This emergency rule does not alter the agency's longstanding interpretation that a convention must occur in-person in all other situations.

Please contact the Office of the Secretary of State when you are prepared to submit nominating documents. We can only accept signature petitions by an in-person appointment ([WAC 434-208-060](#)).